

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL  
RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

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Ravalli County Commissioners



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STATE OF MONTANA

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To: Governor's Office, Mike Volesky, State Capitol, Room 204, PO Box 200801, Helena MT 59620-0801  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region 2 Headquarters, 3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula MT 59804  
Ravalli County Board of County Commissioners, 215 S 4<sup>th</sup> St. Suite A Hamilton MT 59840  
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Double Fork Ranch, LLC has submitted an application for a land use license which would authorize narrowing and reshaping of a 500 foot long portion of the Bitterroot River. The proposed project is located within the W2 NW4 Section 32, Township 8 North, Range 20 West. The Bitterroot River is a navigable waterway whose streambed is owned by the State of Montana, and managed by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

The purpose of the project is to stabilize the riverbank and prevent further eastward migration of the river due accumulation of bedload, which has resulted in widening of the river. Bedload materials will be relocated, the east bank will be steepened, and sod materials and woody transplants will be utilized in the streambank and riparian zone to further stabilize the area. The project requires temporary diversion of water into an opposite channel to reduce sediment discharge. Once the project is completed, the stream will be rediverted back to the existing channel.

The project is expected to require annual maintenance.

Multiple permits are required from several agencies. In addition to a land use license from the Montana DNRC, a floodplain permit is required from the Ravalli County Floodplain office, a 318 permit from DEQ, along with a 310 permit from the Bitterroot Conservation District and a 404 permit from the Army Corp of Engineers.

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation is required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act to assess potential impacts of proposed activities on state lands to the human and physical environment. Public comments on this project are being sought in order to complete that assessment.

Public comment will be taken for 10 days (through February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009). This request for public comment is also being posted on the DNRC website at [http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/about\\_us/notices.asp](http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/about_us/notices.asp)

Comments may be submitted by email at [dboruch@mt.gov](mailto:dboruch@mt.gov). You may also mail written comments to SWLO-DNRC, Attn: Dana Boruch 1401 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Missoula MT 59804.

Dana M. Boruch  
Right-of-Way Specialist  
Southwestern Land Office